

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-03 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-02 TRSE-00 USIA-04 NSC-07 SCI-03

OMB-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SCA-01 SCS-01 PRS-01 PA-01 EB-03

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R 102151Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4277

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 445

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 8670

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJ: MISSION MONTHLY NARCOTICS REVIEW FOR SEPT 1974

FOR DIA AA-7

REF: MEXICO 8354; STATE 220962; MEXICO 8034

1. SUMMARY: FOR THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, SEPT WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO CONFECTING THE FY1976 PROGRAM GUIDANCE AND PREPARING FOR THE ARA NARCOTICS COORDINATORS' CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 10-11. IN A LESS PAROCHIAL CONTEXT, OTHER FORWARD-LOOKING DEVELOPMENTS WERE NOTED; WASHINGTON APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUGUST STUDY TEAM; "COMPASS TRIP" AIRCRAFT AND TRAINING THEREFOR APPEARED TO BE ON SCHEDULE; A USG/GOM AGREEMENT FOR TRAINING HELICOPTER PILOTS AND MECHANICS WAS CONCLUDED; WASHINGTON BEGAN PUTTING TOGETHER A MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AIRFORCE; OPERATION "CENTAC IV" MADE IMPRESSIVE ARRESTS AND SEIZURES, AND EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE PUBLICITY; THE GOM REMOVED SEVERAL PRESUMABLY CORRUPT OFFICIALS IN SONORA, CONFIDENTIAL
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TAMAULIPAS AND SINALOAN AND SEVERAL PRESS STORIES
RAILED AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IN THE VALLEY OF MEXICO. THE

ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE CAME WITH THE CRASH OF A BELL 212 HELICOPTER, COSTING THE LIFE OF THE MECHANIC AND ABOUT \$700,000 WORTH OF MACHINE. HERION AND OPIUM SEIZURES WERE DOWN, OWING TO THE SEASONAL OPIUM SHORTAGE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TO SOME SENSATIONAL POLITICAL KIDNAPPINGS WHICH THE GOM SOLVED SUCCESSFULLY, AND TO HURRICANE FIFI, WHICH IT DID NOT.

2. EMBASSY AND GOM ACTIVITIES

A. IN A FOLLOWS-UP TO THE VISIT OF THE USG INTER-AGENCY STUDY TEAM (REPORTED IN AUGUST MISSION NARCOTICS REVIEW, WASHINGTON ON SEPT 12) INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY TEAM HAD BEEN REVIEWED AND THAT WASHINGTON WAS PREPARED TO ACT FAVORABLY ON ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF THREE BELL 212 HELICOPTERS FOR THE 1976 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. (SEE STATE 200962).

B. THE AIRCRAFT FOR OPERATION "COMPASS TRIP" (THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC POPPY DETECTION SYSTEM) REMAINS SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY OCTOBER 28. MEANWHILE, THE GOM HAS SELECTED PILOT AND MECHANIC TRAINEES FOR THE PLANE; THEY BEGIN TRAINING OCTOBER 21.

C. ON SEPT 30 THE AMBASSADOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL EXCHANGED LETTERS PROVIDING FOR THE TRAINING OF 23 HELICOPTER PILOTS AND 18 MECHANICS. THE TRAINING WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN MEXICO AND THE US.

D. WORK WENT FORWARD IN WASHINGTON ON THE PROVISION OF A MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY CONTRACT TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HELICOPTERS AND OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE 1975 CAMPAIGN.

E. IN A SAD INCIDENT ON SEPT 22, ONE OF THE AG'S BELL 212 HELICOPTERS CRASHED NEAR ORIZABA, VERACRUZ. THE AIRCRAFT, OPERATING IN BAD WEATHER TO AID VICTIMS OF HURRICANE FIFI, WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED. THE PILOT ESCAPED WITH MINOR INJURIES BUT THE HELICOPTER'S MECHANIC WAS KILLED ON THE SPOT. (SEE MEXICO 8034).

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F. IN APARENT FURTHERANCE OF THE GOM'S COMMITMENT TO ATTACK NARCOTICS-RELATED CORRUPTION (AS POSSIBLE), THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF RECENT CHANGES IN FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN SONORA, TAMAULIPAS AND SINALOA. THESE INCLUDE: MOVING FEDERAL ATTORNEY AND MFJP COMMANDANT IN HERMOSILLO TO GUADALAJARA; REMOVING CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF FIRST CUSTOMS ZONE (TAMAULIPAS); AND REMOVING THE MFJP COMMANDANT IN CULIACAN, SINALOA.

G. OPERATION "CENTAC IV", THE ANTI-AMPHETAMINE

ROUNDUP IN THE US, ALSO HAD ITS REPERCUSSIONS IN MEXICO. SEVERAL PRESSES AND THOUSANDS OF PILLS WERE SEIZED, AND MANY ARRESTS OCCURRED IN MEXICO CITY, GUADALAJARA AND TIJUANA. THE OPERATION (ESPECIALLY THE US HASE) RECEIVED A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLICITY IN THE MEXICAN PRESS, WITH THE ATORNEY GENERAL USING THE OPPORTUNITY TOUNDERLINETHE US/GOM "ABSOLUTE" ANTI-DRUG COOPERATION AND TO REAFFIRM THAT SUCH JOINT OPERATIONS WOULD CONTINUE.

H. THE USUAL SPATE OF SENSATIONAL OR SERIOUS ARTICLES DECRYING DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE APPEARED IN SEPT. EXAMPLES: (1) LABOR AND OTHER POPULAR SECTOR LEADERS IN CIUDAD NEZAHUALCOYOTL (INFAMOUSLY KNOWN AS THE LARTEST LSUM IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE) DENOUNCED THE FLOURSIHING OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER FORMS OF VICE IN THAT FAIR CITY; (2) THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE VALLEY OF MEXICO DEPLORED THE CONDITION OF MUNICIPAL PRISONS THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY, TERMING THEM "CENTERS OF DRUG ADDICTION"; AND (3) DR. JOSE MANUEL SEPTIEN, THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH'S DIRECTOR OF FAMILY PLANNING, MENTIONED DRUG ADDICTION AMONG SEVERAL FACTORS AFFECTING NEGATIVELY THE FEMALE REPROEUCTIVE PROCESSES.

3. GOM ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. WITH US AUTHORITIES

7 KG. COCAINE SEIZED IN MAZATLAN; 1 PERSON ARRESTED.
3 TONS MARIJUANA, TEN VEHICLES AND 6 FIREARMS SEIZED
IN ABANDONED TIJUANA HOUSE.
1 POUND HEROIN TAKEN IN MEXICALI, AFTER FIREFIGHT IN
WHICH ONE MFJP AGENT WUNDED, ONE TRAFFICKER KILLED;
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7 PERSONS ARRESTED.
8 OZ. COCAINE SEIZED IN REYNOSA; 2 ARRESTS.
.5 KG. HEROIN TAKEN IN TIJUANA; 2 ARRESTED.
450 GM. HEROIN, 4 KG. MARIJUANA SEIZED IN MONTERREY;
4 PERSONS ARRESTED, INCLUDING FORMER MFJP
AGENT.
2.5 KG. COCAINE, .5 OZ. HEROIN SEIZED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ;
2 ARRESTS.
307 LITRES OF HASH OIL (EQUIVALENT TO 100-150 TONS OF
MARIJUANA) AND LABORATORY SEIZED IN GUERRERO;
2 PERSONS ARRESTED.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-03 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-02 TRSE-00 USIA-04 NSC-07

SCI-03 OMB-01 AID-05 SCA-01 SCS-01 PRS-01 PA-01 EB-03

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B. INDEPENDENT MEXICAN OPERATIONS

1 TON MARIJUANA SEIZED IN BENJAMIN HILL, SONORA;

NO ARRESTS REPORTED.

4.5 KG. HEROIN RESIDUE, LABORATORY SEIZED IN CULIACAN;

3 PERSONS ARRESTED.

1 KG. HEROIN TAKEN IN TIJUANA; 2 ARRESTED.

1 KG. HEROIN SEIZED AT CULIACAN AIRPORT; 1 PERSON
ARRESTED.

.5 KG. HEROIN SEIZED IN CULIACAN; 1 ARREST.

12 TONS MARIJUANA FOUND IN ABANDONES TRAILER IN REYNOSA.

THE GOM ANNOUNCED AN INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN OF MARIJUANA
DESTRUCTION IN THE STATE OF JALISCO, WITH AN
ESTIMATED 282 TONS OF THE WEEK DESTROYED IN THE
FIELD DURING LAST DAYS OF AUGUST AND FIRST FOUR
DAYS OF SEPTEMBER.

1/2 TON MARIJUANA CONFISCATED IN MICHAOCAN; 2 ARRESTED.

10 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED IN TRAILER NEAR NUEVO LAREDO;
SUSPECTS FLED.

84 GM. HEROIN, 224 GM. AND 4,230 "TOXIC" PILLS FOUND
IN NUEVO LAREDO; 5 ARRESTS.

7 TONS MARIJUANA TAKEN NEAR URUAPAN; 3 ARRESTED.

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15,000 PILLS, 100 GM. HEROIN SEIZED IN CULIACAN AFTER

A SHOOTOUT; 1 TRAFFICKER KILLED, THE OTHER ARRESTED.
MEXICAN ARMY IN JALISCO STATE REPORTED DESTROYING SOME
3,800 TONS OF MARIJUANA, 2,000,000 SQUARE METERS OF
FIELDS DURING MID-SEPTEMBER.
TWO US CITIZENS ARRESTED IN MICAHOACAN WITH 45,000
AMPHETAMINES.

C. MONTHLY WRAPUP (OFFICIAL GOM)

OPIUM

FIELDS DESTROYED: 41
AREA IN SQUARE METERS: 127,876M2
OPIUM GUM: 110 GM
SEEDS: 22 KG.
HEROIN: 3.9 KG.

COCAINE: 10.3 KG.

AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES: 70,000

MARIJUANA

FIELDS DESTROYED: 274
AREA IN SQUARE METERS: 1,059,393M2
MARIJUANA (DRY) SEIZED: 35.23 TONS
SEED: 40.1 KG.
MARIJUANA EXTRACT (HASH OIL): 308 LITERS

AIRCRAFT SEIZED: 3

AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS: 40

ARRESTS

FOREIGNERS (MOSTLY US): 13
MEXICAN NATIONALS: 144

(NOTE: OFFICIAL GOM STATISTICS FOR HEROIN, COCAINE,
MARIJUANA AND PILLS ACCORD CLOSELY THIS MONTH WITH THE
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EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL COMPILATION OF DEA REPORTS AND PRESS
ACCOUNTS. THE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF ONE MILLION AMPHETAMINES
SEIZED IN AUGUST AND WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN THE GOM'S
TOTALS FOR THAT MONTH, DID NOT APPEAR IN THE OFFICIAL
STATISTICS FOR SEPT EITHER, LEADING US TO ASSUME THAT
THE REPORT WAS IN ERROR.)
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